



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

September 20, 2011

Largest Service Event in the World Hits Home Involving 1,000 SC Youth

*Columbia, SC...*Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG-SC) has been chosen as one of the Youth Service America's (YSA) Lead Agencies to serve in the planning and organization of the 24th Annual Global Youth Service Day—the largest service event in the world and the only one that is dedicated to mobilizing and celebrating youth volunteers.

Through a competitive application process, JAG-SC was chosen to be one of 100 Lead Agencies from across the United States and Canada.

As a Lead Agency, JAG-SC will receive a \$2,000 planning grant, travel to the Youth Service Institute (YSI) and receive ongoing training and technical assistance throughout the year.

The South Carolina Career Association (SCCA) Advisor and this year's JAG-SC President (elected by their high school peers) will attend the YSI October 24-26 in Philadelphia where they will come together with others to share best practices, great ideas and to learn how to implement high quality service projects that achieve significant impact on youth and community outcomes through youth engagement.

JAG-SC, coordinated by the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), is a dropout prevention program focused on helping at-risk students achieve academic success, graduate from high school and improve career readiness.

“Being selected as a Youth Service America Lead Agency is a huge deal in the youth serving world. The project will expose all of our youth participants to linked community service outcomes, training and leadership opportunities,” said Elaine Midkiff, state coordinator of the JAG-SC program for DEW.

JAG-SC's student-led Career Association, under the direction of our SCCA Advisor, will select and execute multiple service learning projects across the state over the coming months in anticipation for Global Youth Service Day. The culminating celebration to recognize their achievements will take place on April 20th in conjunction with the annual Career Development

Conference in Columbia. Midkiff stated she anticipates over 1,000 youth volunteering a minimum of 10 hours each between now and April 20th.

Global Youth Service Day 2012 seeks to make a difference in the community, the state, and the world by working towards YSA's mission of a global culture of engaged young people who choose to serve rather than be served.

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